

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

JANUARY 18, 2007

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 11, 2007, **SHAWNSEA J. RUDDER**, age 24, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was named in a five-count Indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois.

Count 1 charges that on July 27, 2006, at 1:52 p.m., RUDDER distributed less than 5 grams of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C).

Count 2 charges that on July 27, 2006, at 2:03 p.m., RUDDER distributed less than 5 grams of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C).

Count 3 charges that on August 9, 2006, at 1:53 p.m., RUDDER distributed less than 5 grams of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C).

Count 4 charges that on August 9, 2006, at 2:47 p.m., RUDDER distributed less than 5 grams of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C).

Count 5 charges that on September 19, 2006, RUDDER distributed less than 5 grams of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C).

With respect to each of the five counts, RUDDER faces a penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, and a term of supervised release of at least 3 years.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.